



Office of the Attorney General  
State of Texas

DAN MORALES  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

October 14, 1996

Mr. Lee Vickers  
Overstreet, Winn & Edwards, P.C.  
P.O. Box 2191  
Austin, Texas 78768

OR96-1871

Dear Mr. Vickers

On behalf of the Hays County Appraisal District (the "district"), you ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Open Records Act, chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 101194.

The district received a request for "the names of the candidates for the Chief Appraiser position." You assert that the requested information is excepted from required public disclosure based on sections 552.102 and 552.024 of the Government Code.

By their terms, sections 552.102 and 552.024 apply to information that concerns "an employee of a governmental body" and an "official of a governmental body." As the individuals who are applying for the position of the district's chief appraiser are currently not district employees or officials, these provisions do not apply to the requested information. Moreover, the public has a strong interest in being apprised of the names of persons being considered for public positions. *See* Open Records Decision No. 257 (1980). The district may not withhold the names from the requestor pursuant to section 552.102 or 552.024.<sup>1</sup>

We are resolving this matter with this informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue

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<sup>1</sup>We note that you submitted the candidates' entire resumes. As the requestor seeks only the candidates' names, we do not rule on the public disclosure of information in the resumes that the requestor does not seek to obtain.

under the facts presented to us in this request and may not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kay Guajardo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kay" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Guajardo".

Kay Guajardo  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

KHG/rho

Ref.: ID# 101194

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Mr. D. B. Bearden  
The Holly Media Group  
P.O. Box 45  
Wimberly, Texas 78676  
(w/o enclosures)